

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Masanori KUSUNOKI, Toshitaka OSANAI, Noboru HIRAMATSU  
and Michio YAMAMOTO

Serial No. : Not Yet Known Int'l Appl'n No.: PCT/JP2005/012273

Date Filed : Concurrently Herewith Int'l Filing Date: 28 June 2005

For: MAINTENANCE/RECOVERY DEVICE FOR LIQUID DISCHARGE DEVICE, AND  
IMAGE FORMING DEVICE

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Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to the applicant's duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached Form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, filed concurrently herewith, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The subject application is a U.S. national phase application under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2005/012273. One or more of the items listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 was cited in the International Search Report and/or Written Opinion in connection with International Application No. PCT/JP2005/012273. Copies of the International Search Report and/or Written Opinion are submitted concurrently herewith.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or

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exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

According to the August 5, 2003 OG Notice published by the Patent and Trademark Office, the Office has waived the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international application that have entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 after June 30, 2003.

Accordingly, copies are submitted herewith for only references listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 that are not a U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 31, 2006

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<b>Form PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>U.S. Department of Commerce</b> <b>Patent and Trademark Office</b>	Atty. Docket No. 2271/75819	Serial No. <b>4506864</b> Not Yet Known
		Applicant: Masanori KUSUNOKI et al.	
		Filing Date: Herewith	Group Art Unit:

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	6 4 8 1 8 2 6	11-19-2002	Hara et al.			
	20 03 /0 10 76 32 A1	6-12-2003	Arita et al.			
	20 03 /0 23 48 29 A1	12-25-2003	Takahashi			
	6 7 2 9 7 1 6	5-4-2004	Eguchi et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	JP	6 - 2 3 8 9 1 5	8-30-1994	Japan			Abstract	
	JP	3 1 0 6 7 8 3	9-8-2000	Japan			Abstract	
	JP	20 01 - 7 1 5 1 4	3-21-2001	Japan			Abstract	
	JP	20 03 - 1 8 3 9	1-8-2003	Japan			Abstract	
	JP	20 03 - 9 6 3 5 5	4-3-2003	Japan			Abstract	
	JP	20 03 -2 7 6 2 1 3	9-30-2003	Japan			Abstract	

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**


<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.